

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01 SY-05 FBIE-00

INSE-00 VO-03 JUSE-00 SCA-01 CU-02 DHA-02 PA-01 PRS-01

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P 082147Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, SL

SUBJECT: INCIDENT IN PHILADELPHIA (PA) INVOLVING  
SIERRA LEONEAN NATIONAL

SUMMARY: SUNDUFA MOHAMED KOROMA, HERE ON F-1 VISA, BEATEN BY PHILADELPHIA POLICE FOLLOWING JEWELRY STORE ROBBERY AND SHOOTOUT BETWEEN POLICE AND THIEVES. SUBSEQUENT INTERROGATION REVEALED KOROMA NOT INVOLVED IN ROBBERY, AND HE RELEASED FOLLOWING MEDICAL TREATMENT. CITY OFFICIALS APPARENTLY EMBARRASSED BY INCIDENT AND HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS COMPENSATE KOROMA, PENDING THE RESULTS OF CURRENT INVESTIGATION. INCIDENT PROMPTED INS TO INVESTIGATE KOROMA'S ACTIVITIES SINCE HIS ADMISSION. INVESTIGATION REVEALED HE WORKING FULL-TIME INSTEAD OF ATTENDING SCHOOL. INS HAS ISSUED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE AND KOROMA'S DEPORTATION HEARING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 10. THE EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE HAS SENT DEPARTMENT NOTE CHARGING POLICE BRUTALITY AND INS HARRASSMENT OF KOROMA. END SUMMARY.  
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1. KOROMA WAS APPREHENDED BY POLICE FOLLOWING NOON JEWELRY STORE HOLDUP AND ENSUING SHOOTOUT IN DOWNTOWN PHILADELPHIA JUNE 19, WHEN SEARCH FOR THIEVES LED POLICE TO OFFICE WHERE KOROMA HAD SOUGHT REFUGE FROM SHOOTING. BY ALL ACCOUNTS KOROMA WAS NOT ARMED WHEN CONFRONTED BY POLICE NOR

DID HE OFFER RESISTANCE. ACCORDING TO HIS ACCOUNT, POLICE NEVERTHELESS CLUBBED AND KICKED HIM REPEATEDLY DESPITE HIS EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF AS A FOREIGN NATIONAL AND TO CONVINCE THEM HE NOT INVOLVED IN THE HOLDUP. HE WAS LED HANDCUFFED AND BLEEDING FROM THE SCENE. POLICE LATER DETERMINED THROUGH QUESTIONING THAT KOROMA AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER AND RELEASED HIM FOLLOWING TREATMENT FOR HEAD WOUNDS HE SUSTAINED DURING POLICE BEATING.

2. PHILADELPHIA CITY OFFICIALS APPARENTLY EMBARRASSED BY THIS INCIDENT WHICH HAS GENERATED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST AND CHARGES OF POLICE BRUTALITY AND RACISM. EMBASSY OFFICER ACCOMPANIED BY LEGAL ADVISORS, MET WITH FIRST DEPUTY CITY SOLICITOR, AND CHIEF POLICE INSPECTOR TO DISCUSS CASE. FOUR PROPOSALS AGREED UPON AT THIS MEETING: 1) A DETAILED INVESTIGATION WILL BE MADE OF POLICE CONDUCT IN THIS INCIDENT; 2) OFFICERS FOUND GUILTY OF MISCONDUCT WILL BE REPRIMANDED; 3) ADEQUATE COMPENSATION WILL BE PROVIDED KOROMA AND; 4) STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO INSURE THAT SIERRA LEONEAN STUDENTS ACCORDED SAME PROTECTION AND TREATMENT AS OTHER FOREIGN STUDENTS.

3. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF INCIDENT APPARENTLY BROUGHT KOROMA TO ATTENTION OF INS, WHICH INITIATED INVESTIGATION OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN US. THIS INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT ALTHOUGH KOROMA HERE ON F-1 VISA HE HAS NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL BUT RATHER HAS BEEN WORKING SINCE HIS ADMISSION. KOROMA APPREHENDED JUNE 30 BY INS OFFICIALS, WITHOUT WARRANT ACCORDING TO EMBASSY'S LEGAL ADVISOR, WHO ALSO ALLEGES KOROMA DETAINED OVERNIGHT AND RELEASED FOLLOWING DAY ONLY AFTER HE SIGNED PREPARED STATEMENT RE HIS ACTIVITIES AND THOSE OF OTHER SIERRA LEONEAN NATIONALS CURRENTLY IN PHILADELPHIA AREA. FOLLOWING ARREST AND DETENTION, INS ISSUED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHEDULED KOROMA'S DEPORTATION HEARING JULY 10.

4. SIERRA LEONEAN EMBASSY HAS OFFICIALLY PROTESTED THESE TWO INCIDENTS AND STRONGLY BELIEVES INS ACTION DESIGNED TO GET KOROMA OUT OF COUNTRY BEFORE HE RECEIVES HIS "JUST SETTLEMENT" FROM POLICE.

5. DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED FROM KOROMA'S ATTORNEY KOROMA

PLANNING TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST POLICE. ATTORNEY  
ALSO ADVISES HE INTENDS TO REQUEST FBI INVESTIGATIONS OF  
BOTH POLICE ATTACK AND ALLEGED INS HARRASSMENT OF KOROMA.  
HE WILL REQUEST POSTPONEMENT OF PLEADINGS ON THE ORDER TO  
SHOW CAUSE UNTIL THESE INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONCLUDED.

6. COPY OF NOTE BEING POUCHED. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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